

Proving Identity Through Multiple Strategies: Who is Niels Christian Pedersen?

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The baptismal record of Peder Christian Nielsen, dated 4 June 1836 in Åsted, Hjørring County, names his parents as the unmarried couple Christiane Christensdatter and Niels Christian Pedersen. This relationship is also found on FamilySearch's Family Tree, where Niels is attached to parents Peder Andersen and Maren Christensen [sic]. Family Tree also shows him as the only boy, and fourth child, in a family of seven children.

But is this correct? Is the family he is linked to really his? Or, is the correct father of Peder Christian Nielsen a different Niels Christian Pedersen?

In this class we will test this relationship and use strategies to examine church, census, and conscription records to determine if what is on Family Tree is correct.

RESEARCH AREA

The involved geographic area lays entirely within Hjørring County on the northern end of the Jylland peninsula. Specifically, three parishes in Horns herred: Flade, Skærum, and Åsted; and Ugilt parish in Vennebjerg herred.

CHURCH

These records serve as the primary source of vital statistical information in Denmark at this time. The registers of baptism, confirmation, moving in and out, and marriage will be examined in connection with this presentation.

CENSUS

The enumerations of 1834, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1890 will also be used.

CONSCRIPTION

The conscription rolls (*lægdsruller*) during this time period consist of two separate registers: the *Hovedrulle* (Main rolls) and *Tilgangsruille* (Supplemental rolls). The Main rolls were completed once every several years and listed all registered males in the district. The Supplemental rolls list males who moved into the district since the last full registration.

RECOMMENDED READING

For addition information please consult the following articles in the FamilySearch Research Wiki:

- Danish Military Levying Rolls (*Lægdsruller*)
- Denmark Military Levy Numbers (*Lægdsnummer*)
- Denmark, Military Conscription Rolls - FamilySearch Historical Records

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